

Economic Development & Improvement Commission

Regular Meeting – Thursday, April 10, 2008 – 11:30

Basement/Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chair Rosania called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Betty Rosania, Bill Knapp, Doug Sacks, John Adamian, Joan Hughes, Howard Greenblatt and Ken Rizzio.

Members absent: Kate Mullen, Tony Homicki, Brian Silver, Chris Monroe, Chris Lyons and Joe Cornelio.

Also in attendance: Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager, Phil Knecht – Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison, Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business

- a. Status Report - Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project – Peter Gillespie reported that the streetscape work had commenced on April 7th. He noted that in this stage utility excavation, granite curbing, sidewalk, streetlight and stone wall work will be completed. Mr. Gillespie discussed the possibility of receiving additional state funding. He also noted that Keiler is preparing to release a story about this project.
- b. Status Report - Preserve America Master Plan – Peter Gillespie reported that the public meeting will be held May 20th and that JMA has been asked to make a few revisions to the draft which should be ready in early May. Mr. Gillespie noted that the town had applied for a \$150,000 grant and had gotten notice that \$90,000 was received for gateway improvements and wayfinding signage.
- c. Status Report - Horse and Carriage Rides – Peter Gillespie reported that the Horse and Carriage rides will be in service on May 24th. He noted that money in the budget for this item was cut and that additional funding options will be sought.
- d. 1260 Silas Deane Highway – Peter Gillespie reported that the DEP had denied the application. He noted that the applicant is currently revising the proposal. The plans would still call for filling of wetlands but below the threshold that would require review by the DEP or Army Corps. He noted that plans have been submitted to the IWWA and will also require a modification to the previous PZC approval.

4. New Business

- a. Strategic Plan Update – Goals, Objectives and Strategies 2008 – Ken Rizzio reported that the Strategic Plan Update was discussed at the April 7th Finance Committee meeting. He noted that the document is not as clear as it should be and has suggested redrafting. He discussed the documents

importance serving as a guide for future Commissions and the Town Council. Peter Gillespie mentioned that Redevelopment should also get involved in the revisions and suggested setting up a special workshop on May 1st at 5:00 p.m.

- b. Budget 2008/2009 – Peter Gillespie reported that the public hearing is set for the Silas Deane Middle School Auditorium April 21st at 7:00 p.m.
- c. Keiler Status – Peter Gillespie noted that April is the last month until the next budget starts. He reported that several press releases were currently being completed.
- d. Breakfast Meeting – April – Peter Gillespie reported that the breakfast meeting has been cancelled.
- e. Business Visitation Program – Peter Gillespie noted that he hadn't had a chance to coordinate visits but would follow up.
- f. Shop Local – Peter Gillespie reported that the Finance subcommittee had agreed to take on this item. A meeting will be scheduled with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss what role they may want to play.
- g. Silas Deane Highway Overlay Zone – Peter Gillespie reported that the Committee is set to meet the 1st week in May. He noted a draft regulation should be completed in May and forwarded on to the PZC for review.
- h. Community Video – Peter Gillespie reported that he had been approached by C.G.I. to produce a series of videos to promote the Town. He noted many other local communities have produced successful videos. There is no cost to the town but the town would have to agree to sign a letter of endorsement to introduce C.G.I. to the business community for advertising solicitations.
- i. State of the Town Breakfast – Peter Gillespie reported that the State of the Town Breakfast is scheduled for May 21st.
- j. Redevelopment Forum – He noted that the May 1st forum was cancelled because the speakers were unavailable. He will report the rescheduled date.

5. Reports of the Town Manager -

Town Manager's Report – No report was given.

Town Council Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Phil Knecht reported on items of the April 1st meeting.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Joan Hughes reported on items of the March meeting.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison's Report – Ken Rizzio reported on items of the April 2nd meeting.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the March Monthly Economic Development Report.

6. Chairman's Report – Chair Rosania discussed the following items:

- Farmer's Market
- CL&P property status
- New businesses on the Silas Deane Highway

7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – Doug Sacks reported on items from the last meeting.

Financial Strategies – No report was given.

8. Minutes- Approval of March 2008 meeting minutes – Ken Rizzio made a motion to approve the minutes. Howard Greenblatt seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Abs: Bill Knapp

9. Next Meeting – May 8, 2008

10. Correspondence

- a.** April 2008 Monthly Report

11. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner